



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Robert W. Droege

Serial No.: 09/683,376

Filed: December 19, 2001

For: METHODS AND APPARATUS FOR OPERATING A
SYSTEM:
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Group Art Unit: 3641

Examiner: Jack W. Keith

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING BY EXPRESS MAIL TO
THE COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS**Commissioner for Patents
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JUN 03 2003

GROUP 3600**Express Mail Mailing Label No.: EV339984119US****Date of Mailing: May 22, 2003**

I hereby certify that the documents listed below:

- Amendment Transmittal
- Submission of Marked Up Paragraphs
- Amendment After Final
- Postcard

are being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 C.F.R. §1.10 on the date indicated above in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, Mail Stop NON-FEE AMENDMENT, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450..

Respectfully submitted,

Robert B. Reiser III
Reg. No. 45,548
Armstrong Teasdale LLP
One Metropolitan Square, Suite 2600
St. Louis, MO 63012
(314) 621-5070



24-NS-6049
PATENT

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AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL

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Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated March 26, 2003, and made final, Applicant respectfully requests entry and consideration of the following amendment:

IN THE CLAIMS:

✓ Please cancel Claims 20-25.

1. (once amended) A method for operating a system having a plurality of modes and interlocks between the modes, said method comprising:

operating the system in a first mode, the first mode comprising a predetermined configuration of valves, dampers, motors, and pumps; and

switching the system to a second mode without going to a standby mode, the second mode comprising a predetermined configuration of valves, dampers, motors, and pumps different than the first mode.

PLEASE ADD THE FOLLOWING NEW CLAIMS:

26. A method for operating a nuclear power plant system having a plurality of modes and interlocks between the modes, said method comprising:

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Cont.